US009254067B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Yaari et al.

(10) **Patent No.: US 9,254,067 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Feb. 9, 2016**

(54) **INFANT FEEDING AND BATHING SYSTEM**

(71) Applicants: **Galia Yaari**, Aventura, FL (US); **Michal Yaari**, Aventura, FL (US)

(72) Inventors: **Galia Yaari**, Aventura, FL (US); **Michal Yaari**, Aventura, FL (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 288 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/803,684**

(22) Filed: **Mar. 14, 2013**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2014/0259359 A1 Sep. 18, 2014

(51) **Int. Cl.**

A47K 3/064	(2006.01)
A47K 3/12	(2006.01)
A47D 1/10	(2006.01)
A47D 9/00	(2006.01)
A47D 11/00	(2006.01)
A47D 15/00	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC ***A47K 3/064*** (2013.01); ***A47D 1/103*** (2013.01); ***A47D 9/00*** (2013.01); ***A47D 11/00*** (2013.01); ***A47D 15/00*** (2013.01); ***A47K 3/127*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

CPC A47K 3/127
USPC 4/538–595; 607/81; D24/204; D23/277–278

See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,143,746	A *	8/1964	Spear	5/94
D237,288	S *	10/1975	Crawford	D21/467
4,670,923	A *	6/1987	Gabriel et al.	5/424
4,725,253	A *	2/1988	Politte	441/130
5,005,902	A *	4/1991	Farnworth et al.	297/250.1
5,033,742	A *	7/1991	Johnson et al.	482/140
5,292,175	A *	3/1994	Artz	297/250.1
5,330,255	A *	7/1994	Stawicki	297/391
5,546,620	A *	8/1996	Matthews	5/655
5,993,276	A *	11/1999	Ponton et al.	441/130
6,354,665	B1 *	3/2002	Ross	297/452.41
7,160,235	B2 *	1/2007	McNally et al.	482/142
D562,577	S *	2/2008	Dengler et al.	D6/358
8,047,375	B1 *	11/2011	Hartsfield	206/581
2002/0100116	A1 *	8/2002	Richards	5/108
2002/0108181	A1 *	8/2002	Matthews Brown et al.	5/655.3
2003/0220032	A1 *	11/2003	Hsu et al.	441/131
2004/0033873	A1 *	2/2004	Van Straaten	482/142
2004/0075318	A1 *	4/2004	Wroobel	297/256.17
2004/0130194	A1 *	7/2004	Wroobel	297/256.17
2006/0014613	A1 *	1/2006	Van Straaten et al.	482/140
2007/0056110	A1 *	3/2007	Tuoriniemi et al.	5/655
2007/0271703	A1 *	11/2007	Matthews Brown et al.	5/636
2008/0100109	A1 *	5/2008	Frank	297/238
2013/0015690	A1 *	1/2013	Mendis et al.	297/250.1
2013/0076081	A1 *	3/2013	Curto	297/148

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

www.bloomingbath.com—Bolooming Bath Baby Bath, Baby Set, Baby Tub, p. 19—Jun. 2, 2013.

* cited by examiner

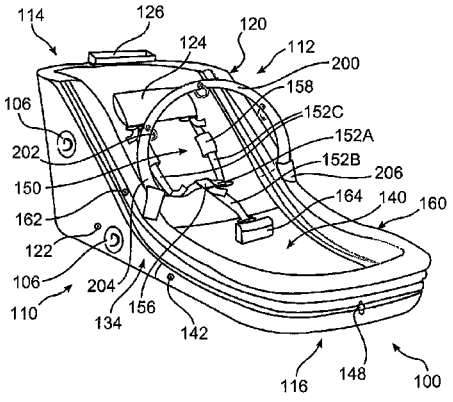
Primary Examiner — Lori Baker

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Fleit Gibbons Gutman Bongini & Bianco PL; Gary S. Winer; Paul D. Bianco

(57) **ABSTRACT**

An infant support has an inflatable seat back portion forming a back support and a portion of a bottom side, a bottom support portion extending below the seat back portion in a direction of a longitudinal end of the infant support device, the bottom support portion forming at least a portion of a bottom side of the infant support. Additionally, an inflatable side portion extends from the seat back portion along transverse sides of the infant support. Together, the inflatable portions form an infant tub when inflated. The bottom support and side portion can be partially or fully deflated, and will thereby dangle or depend from the seat back portion, the infant support thereby forming a chair. A number of inflatable infant care items are combined with the inflatable infant support to form an infant care travel kit.

21 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets



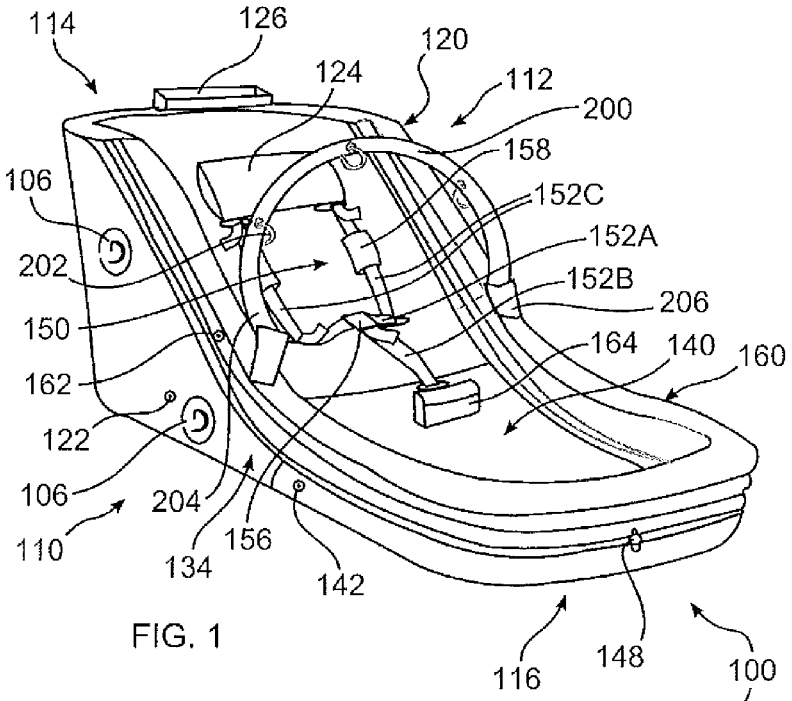

114
126
124
120
112
200
158
106
152C
152A
202
152B
206
150
164
140
160
162
122
106
204
110
134
156
142
116
148
100

FIG. 1

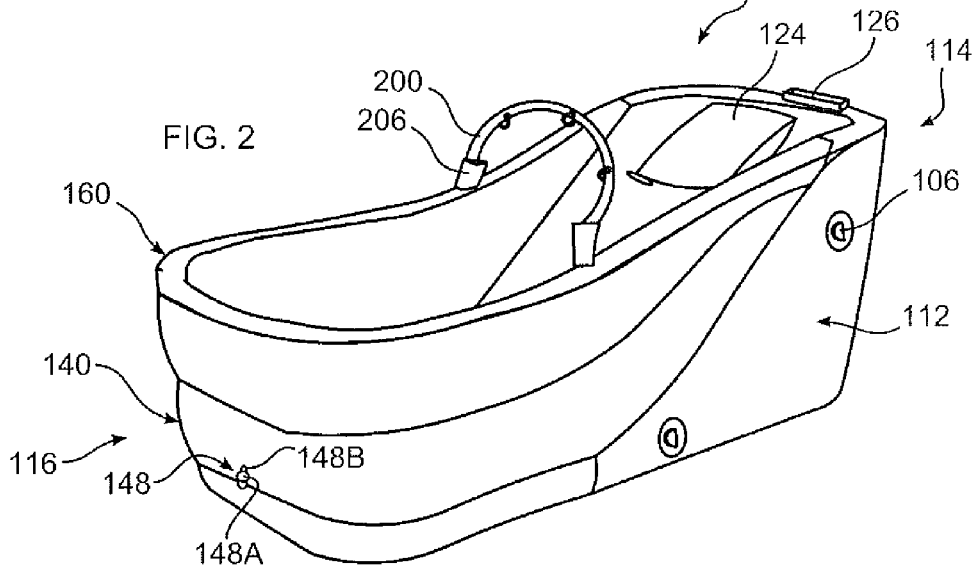

124
126
114
200
206
160
106
112
140
116
148
148B
148A

FIG. 2

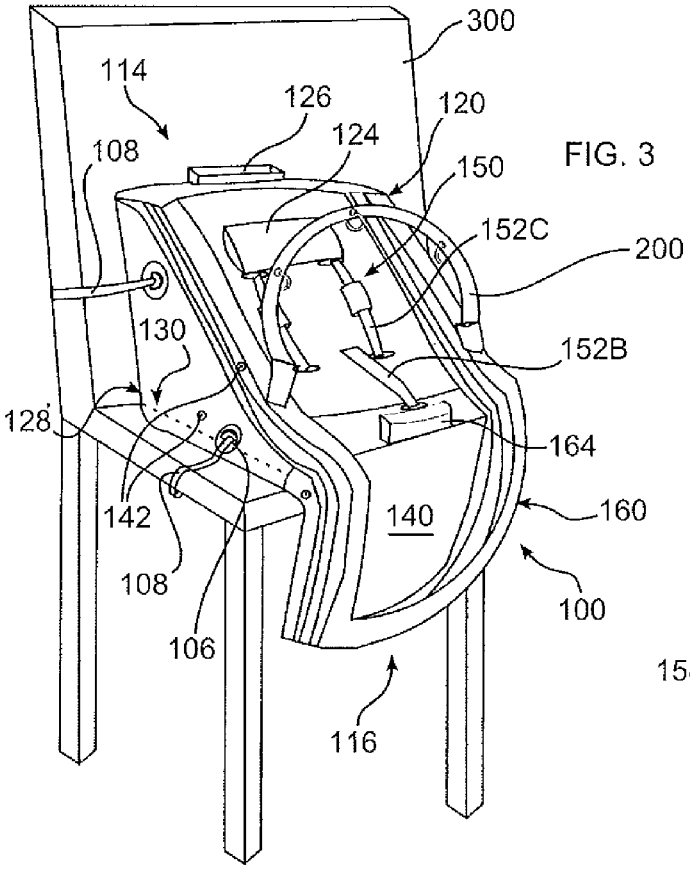
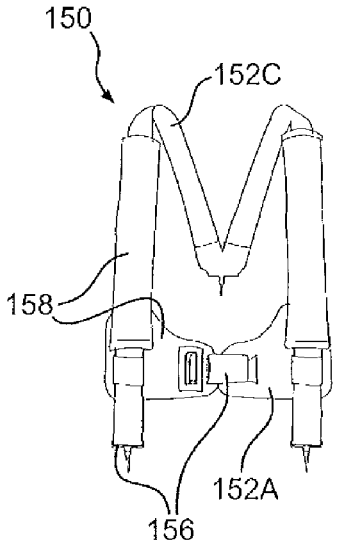


FIG. 3

FIG. 4



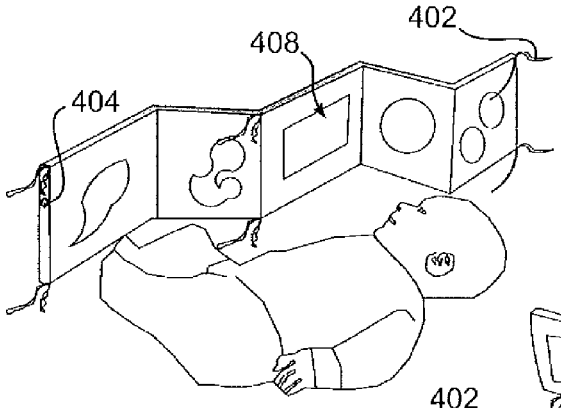


FIG. 5

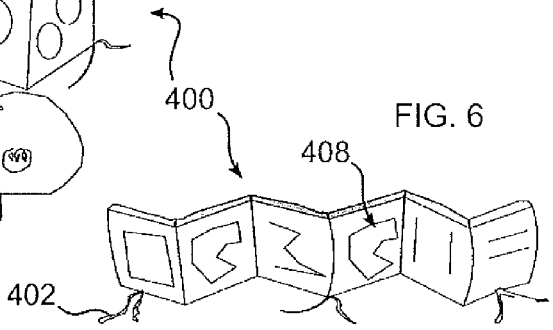


FIG. 6

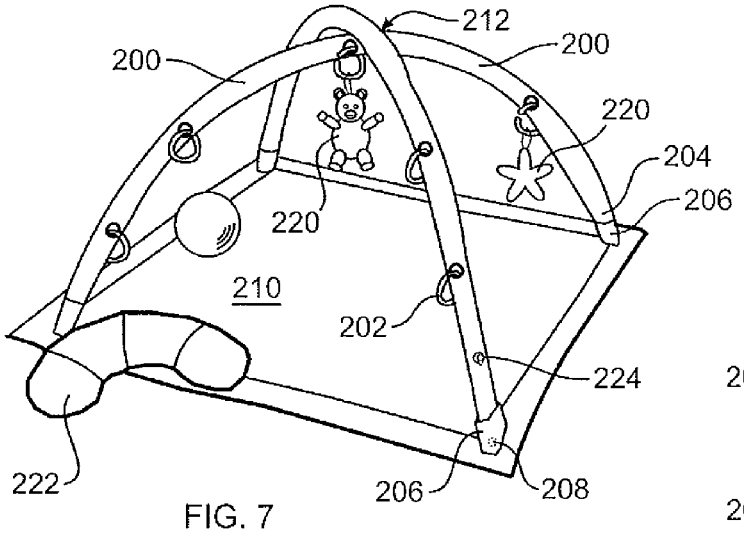


FIG. 7

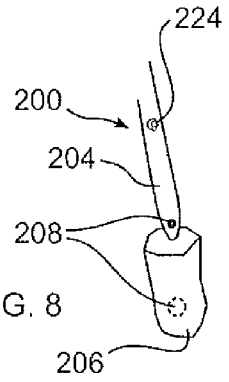
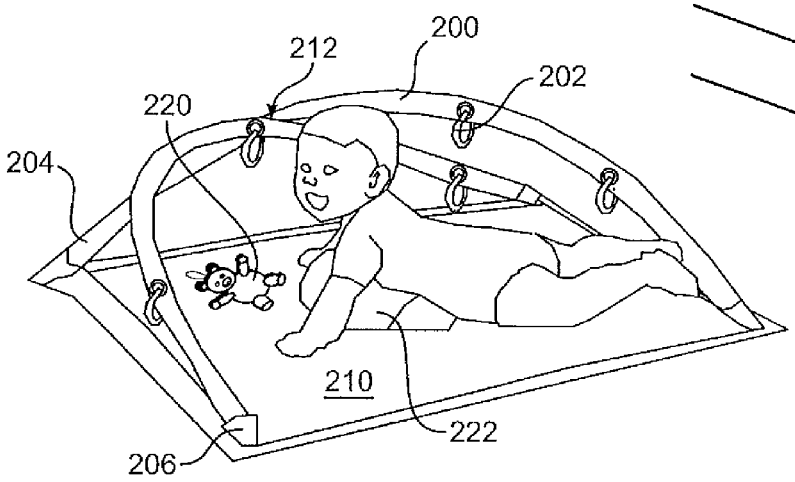
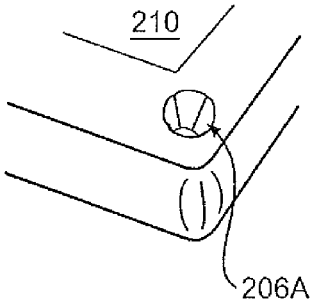


FIG. 8

FIG. 8A

FIG. 9





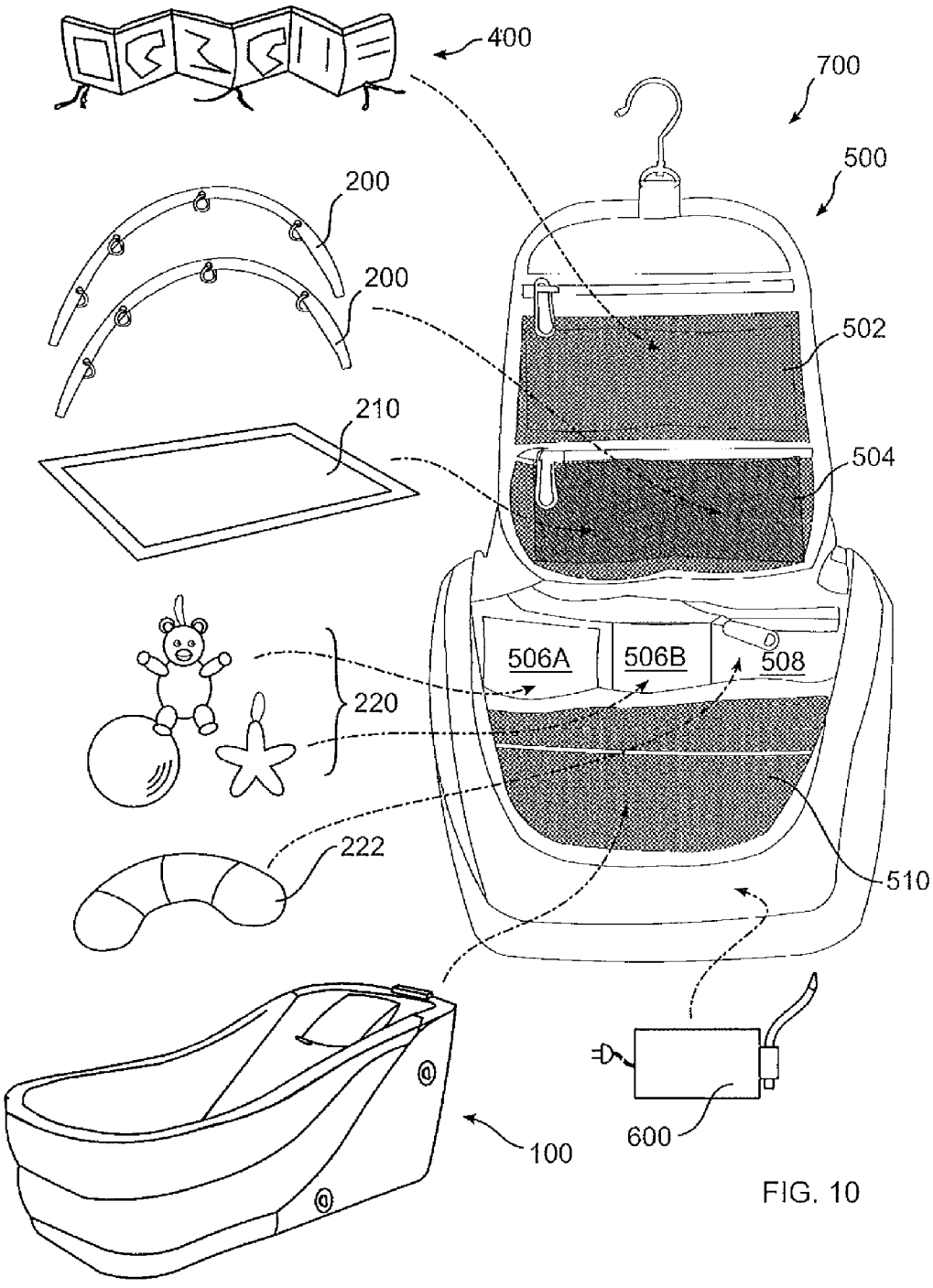

400
700
500
200
200
502
210
504
506A
506B
508
220
222
510
600
100

FIG. 10

INFANT FEEDING AND BATHING SYSTEM

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to portable items for the care of infants, and more particularly to inflatable furnishings for washing, feeding, and protecting infants.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

An inflatable crib bumper, which may be integrated with an inflatable mattress, is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 4,670,923.

An inflatable baby seat is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,005,902.

A mat with an inflatable cushion, upon which a baby may lie, is disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,546,620.

A diaper changing kit is disclose in U.S. Pat. No. 8,047,375.

The art described in this section is not intended to constitute an admission that any patent, publication or other information referred to herein is "prior art" with respect to this invention, unless specifically designated as such. In addition, this section should not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other pertinent information as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(a) exists.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In an embodiment of the disclosure, an infant support, comprises an inflatable seat back portion proximate a first longitudinal end of the infant support device and forming a back support and a portion of a bottom side of the infant support; a bottom support portion extending below the seat back portion in a direction of a second longitudinal end of the infant support device opposite the first longitudinal end, the bottom support portion forming at least a portion of a bottom side of the infant support; and an inflatable side portion extending from the seat back portion along a first transverse side, then along the second longitudinal end, then along a second transverse side, the infant support forming an infant tub when the seat back and side portions are inflated, the infant support forming a chair when the seat back portion is inflated and the side portion is deflated, wherein the side portion is collapsible in a direction of the bottom support when the seat back portion is inflated.

In various embodiments thereof, the bottom support portion is inflatable; when the side portion is deflated, the bottom support portion and the side portion may be bent to form an angle with respect to the seat back portion, the infant support thereby positionable upon a supporting surface, the bottom support portion and side portions depending downward, away from the supporting surface; the support further includes one or more fasteners for connecting the infant support to a supporting surface; the seat back portion and the side portion form mutually separate air chambers, each air chamber provided with a gas inflation valve; and the bottom support portion forming an air chamber separate from the seat back portion and the side portion, and having a gas inflation valve.

In further embodiments thereof, the seat back portion, bottom support portion, and side portion collectively form an interior, the interior provided with a fabric surface; the support further includes one or more inflatable arches releasably connectable to the infant support; the support further includes one or more inflatable toys releasably connectable to the one or more inflatable arches; the support further includes an infant safety restraint connected to the seat back portion and operable to limit movement of an infant within the child support; the support further includes a crotch restraint proximate the bottom support portion; and the support further includes one or more valves associated with the inflatable portions through which air can be admitted under pressure, or withdrawn under suction.

In another embodiment of the disclosure, an infant care kit, comprises a bag sized and dimensioned to contain—an infant support having—an inflatable seat back portion proximate a first longitudinal end of the infant support device and forming a back support and a portion of a bottom side of the infant support; a bottom support portion extending from the seat back portion in a direction of a second longitudinal end of the infant support device opposite the first longitudinal end, the bottom support portion forming a portion of a bottom side of the infant support; an inflatable side portion extending from the seat back portion along a first transverse side, then along the second longitudinal end, then along a second transverse side, the infant support forming an infant tub when the seat back and side portions are inflated, the infant support forming a chair when the seat back portion is inflated and the side portion is deflated, wherein the side portion is configured to be collapsible and bendable in a direction of the bottom support when the seat back portion is inflated; and one or more inflatable supporting arches; and one or more inflatable toys supportable by the one or more supporting arches.

In various embodiments thereof, the kit further includes a mat connectable to the one or more supporting arches; the mat is inflatable; the kit further includes an inflatable infant pillow; the bag includes a hook from which the bag may be suspended; the kit further includes an elongate inflatable safety bumper.

In a yet further embodiment of the disclosure, a method of supporting an infant, comprises inflating a seat back portion of an infant support device proximate a first longitudinal end of the infant support device thereby forming a back support and a portion of a bottom side of the infant support device; inflating a bottom support portion extending from the seat back portion in a direction of a second longitudinal end of the infant support device opposite the first longitudinal end, the bottom support portion forming a portion of a bottom side of the infant support device; inflating a side portion extending from the seat back portion along a first transverse side, then along the second longitudinal end, then along a second transverse side, the infant support thereby forming an infant tub; at least partially deflating each of the side portion and the bottom support portions; and bending the side portion and the bottom support portion to depend downwards from the seat back portion, thereby converting the infant tub to a chair.

In an embodiment thereof, the method further includes securing the infant support device to a supporting surface using one or more straps.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A more complete understanding of the disclosure, and the attendant advantages and features thereof, will be more readily understood by reference to the following detailed description when considered in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

FIG. **1** depicts an infant support of the disclosure, partially inflated;

FIG. **2** depicts the infant support of FIG. **1**, fully inflated;

FIG. **3** depicts the infant support of FIG. **1**, supported by and connected to a chair;

FIG. **4** depicts a safety restraint of the disclosure;

FIG. **5** depicts an inflatable safety bumper and media book of the disclosure;

FIG. **6** depicts the inflatable bumper of FIG. **5**, having fasteners on only one side thereof;

FIG. **7** depicts the inflatable arches illustrated in FIG. **1**, connected to a mat, together with inflatable toys suspended therefrom;

FIG. **8** depicts a manner of attaching the inflatable arches of FIG. **7** to the mat;

FIG. **8**A depicts an enlarged view of a portion of the arch and mat of FIG. **8**;

FIG. **9** depicts an alternative configuration of the inflatable arches of FIG. **7**, and an inflatable pillow illustrated in FIG. **7** in use beneath an infant; and

FIG. **10** depicts a travel bag of the disclosure, having compartments for containing the various inflatable elements of the disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As required, detailed embodiments are disclosed herein; however, it is to be understood that the disclosed embodiments are merely examples and that the systems and methods described below can be embodied in various forms. Therefore, specific structural and functional details disclosed herein are not to be interpreted as limiting, but merely as a basis for the claims and as a representative basis for teaching one skilled in the art to variously employ the present subject matter in virtually any appropriately detailed structure and function. Further, the terms and phrases used herein are not intended to be limiting, but rather, to provide an understandable description of the concepts.

The terms "a" or "an", as used herein, are defined as one or more than one. The term plurality, as used herein, is defined as two or more than two. The term another, as used herein, is defined as at least a second or more. The terms "including" and "having," as used herein, are defined as comprising (i.e., open language).

With reference to FIGS. **1** and **2**, a infant support device and seat system **100** of the disclosure includes a seat back portion **120**, a bottom support portion **140**, and an expandable side portion **160**. In a chair or recliner configuration, shown in FIG. **1**, expandable side portion **160** is deflated. In a infant support device configuration, shown in FIG. **2**, expandable side portion **160** is inflated. System **100** is divided into at least two inflatable chambers, a chamber forming expandable side portion **160**, and a chamber forming seat back and bottom support portions **120**, **140**. In another embodiment, there are three inflatable chambers, a first forming seat back portion **120**, a second forming bottom support portion **140**, and a third forming inflatable portion **160**. Each may be resealably closed by fill valves **122**, **142**, and **162**, respectively.

In an embodiment, expandable side portion **160** is pleated, whereby when deflated, the material forming expandable side portion **160** may be compressed and pushed flat, to render the desired chair or recliner shape. In FIG. **1**, it may be seen that expandable side portion **160** begins at a point along a first transverse side **110** near a first longitudinal end **114** of system **100**, continues around a second longitudinal end **116** opposite first longitudinal end **114**, then extends along a second transverse side **112** opposite the first transverse side **110**, to a point opposite the beginning point. A height of expandable side portion **160** varies from a short height near seat back portion **120**, to a relatively taller portion near bottom support portion **140**. In this manner, when system **100** is deflated and in the seat configuration, an infant or child seated within system **100** is laterally supported chiefly along the child's upper body. In this configuration, the child may easily play with people and objects extending outside of the confines formed by system **100**. Similarly, access to the child for feeding and care is facilitated.

In one embodiment, bottom support portion **140** is inflatable, and in another embodiment, bottom support portion is not inflatable. Further, in an embodiment, bottom support portion **140** extends from first longitudinal end **114** to second longitudinal end **116**, passing beneath back support portion **120**. In another embodiment, bottom support portion **140** begins proximate an end of back support portion **120** and continues to second longitudinal end **116**. In a yet further embodiment, illustrated in FIGS. **1-3**, bottom portion **140** begins a distance from back support portion **120** and continues to second longitudinal end **116**. In the latter embodiment, the infant's bottom remains supported by a lower portion **134** of back support portion after bottom support portion **140** is partially or completely deflated.

Thus, when system **100** is inflated, expandable side portion **160** is expanded to a greater extend near the legs of a seated child, and along the second longitudinal end, than near the shoulders of a seated child, near seat back portion **120**. In the expanded infant support device configuration, system **100** will hold water within an interior of system **100** formed by seat back portion **120**, bottom support portion **140**, and expanded portion **160**. It should be understood that when expanded portion **160** is completely filled with air and expanded, a basis is formed of sufficient depth to adequately cover a child so that the child may conveniently be bathed, for example to a waist or chest height of the child. However, expanded portion **160** may remain unexpanded, or partially expanded, and system **100** will still hold a quantity of water in the configuration shown in FIG. **2**, whereby a child may safely play while seated in the shallow water thus contained. For example, system **100** may be placed outside, for example on a beach, or on grass, and a small amount of water may be placed within bottom portion **140**, whereby the child may be cooled, or may play with the water, and possibly a waterproof toy, and be amused.

In an embodiment, a drain valve **148** is provided, for example within bottom portion **140**, expandable portion **160**, or any low water region of system **100**. Drain valve **148** may include a water channel (not shown) to enable passage of drained water through an inflated section of bottom portion **140** or expandable portion **160**, or material proximate drain valve **148** may be pinched together to form a narrow passage. Drain valve **148** can have the form of a cap or plug **148**A, for example secured by a living hinge **148**B, or can be a rotatable valve, or any other known means of controlling water flow from or into a bathing area formed by seat back portion **120**, bottom portion **140**, and expandable portion **160**.

To reduce a likelihood of the child sliding out of a safe position, a safety restraint **150** can be provided, provided with one or more safety straps **152**, which can include a lap belt **152**A, a crotch strap **152**B, and shoulder straps **152**C, or other restraint strap configuration. One or more adjustment mechanisms **154** may be provided, as understood within the art, for adjusting a tension of the straps. Buckles, snaps, hooks, hook and loop fastener (e.g. VELCRO), or other connector **156** may be used to open one or more straps to facilitate placing the child within safety restraint **150**. One or more strap pads **158** can be provided to insulate a seated child from chafing. In the embodiment of FIG. **2**, safety restraint **150** is not illustrated, for clarity. In an embodiment, safety restraint **150** can be removed, for example using snaps, clips, or hook and loop fasteners (not shown). This can be useful, for example, when the infant is being bathed, and is otherwise being attended to.

To further secure a seated child in position, and with additional reference to FIG. **4**, a crotch restraint **164** is attached or attachable to bottom portion **140**. Crotch restraint **164** operates to prevent a child from sliding downwards, to a position lying on the child's back, which may be undesirable, particularly if there is water within system **100**. One or more pillows **124** can be provided to support a portion of a child's body—the head in the example shown. A pouch or pocket **126** can be provided to contain child care items, for example food, toys, or shampoo. In various embodiments, crotch restraint **164**, pillow **124**, and or pocket **126** can be configured to be inflated when the inflatable portion from which they extend is inflated. In other embodiments, restraint **164**, pillow **124**, and or pocket **126** is separately inflated, or is attached or attachable to bottom portion **140**, for example with an adhesive, or using a snap fastener, hook and loop fastener, clip, or buckle.

With reference to FIG. **3**, it may be seen that expandable portion **160** and bottom support portion **140** are not inflated, or have been completely or partially deflated, and are thereby enabled to dangle or depend from chair **300**. Seat back portion **120**, which includes an inflated support behind and beneath a seated child, is positioned upon chair **300** or other structure, and is secured thereto using fasteners **106** and straps **108**. A seated child can be secured within safety restraint **150**, and is thereby prevented from falling from chair **300**, for example while playing or eating. Arch **200** is depicted in FIG. **3**, but can be removed if desired. In an embodiment, seat back portion **120** may be inflated completely or partially, affecting a height of seat bottom **128**. In a further embodiment, an expansion pleat or additional inflation portion **130** can be provided, so that a wide range of seat heights are possible, to better align a seated child with a table top, for example, or to increase a tension of straps **108**.

In the seated configuration of FIG. **3**, it may further be seen that bottom support portion **140** protects the chair, or other structure upon which system **100** is mounted, from scuffing, staining, and other impacts. Further, the deflated or partially inflated expansion portion **160** forms a shelf upon which dropped or spilled materials may be collected, thereby preventing the materials from falling upon a floor surface.

To secure system **100** to an object, for example a chair, table, counter, or other item of furniture or structure, one or more securing fasteners **106** may be positioned about a surface of system **100**. In an embodiment, a strap **108** extends from one side of system **100**, and may be passed around the structure, to be clipped, tied, attached, or otherwise connected with system **100** on an opposite side thereof. In the example shown, fasteners **106** are D-rings, although any form of fastener, including snap, hook and loop, buckle, clip, or hook may be used, and may include a mechanism for adjusting a tension of the strap. In another embodiment, the strap is secured at both sides of system **100**. In the configuration shown in FIGS. **1-2**, an upper fastener **106** is positioned to be connected around a seat back, and a lower fastener **106** is positioned to be connected around a seat bottom.

An inflatable arch **200** extends across a portion of system **100**, for example from transverse side **110** to transverse side **112**, and can be used as an attachment point for toys or other objects to amuse a child seating within, or being bathed within, system **100**. A series of clips, loops, or hooks **202** can be provided, or arch **200** can include hook and loop fastener portions or areas to which such objects may be releaseably fastened. Arch ends **204** can be configured to be inflated with another portion of system **100**, or can be separately inflated. Arch **200** can further be attached or attachable to a remainder of system **100**, for example at expanding portion **160**, for example with an adhesive, or using a snap fastener, hook and loop fastener, clip, or buckle. As shown in further detail in FIG. **8**, a receptacle **206** can be securely or permanently attached to system **100**, and arch ends **204** can be snapped, cinched, or otherwise secured within receptacle **206** by a fastener **208**.

In FIGS. **5-6**, an inflatable toy and media bumper **400** is shown, having bumper fasteners **402**. In the embodiment shown, fasteners **402** have the form of strings or hook and loop straps which may be tied to furniture, for example the interior of a crib, although other fastener types may be used. At least one fastener **402** is provided, and as illustrated, a plurality of fasteners may be provided upon a surface of media bumper **400**, for example along a longitudinal or transverse side or edge of media bumper **400**. Content **408**, including for example indicia, or educational or playful images, or any other appropriate subject matter, may be visible upon a surface of media bumper **400**. As shown in FIG. **5**, a child may be placed along one side of media bumper **400**, and be thereby protected from a potentially harmful impact with an object on another side of media bumper **400**. While there positioned, the child may be amused or educated by content **408**, which can include for example a reflecting surface; colors, particularly including black and white, which are best seen by young infants; textures; sounds, tones, or music; areas which may be pressed to produce sound or a changed image; various fabrics and materials; attached objects; or any other printed matter, objects, or materials which can entertain, educate, or develop an infant's senses or abilities. In an embodiment, media bumper **400** can be formed with hinges, where media bumper can be folded to reveal content **408** sequentially, as in a book. When media bumper **400** is deflated, it can be pressed flat to resemble a conventional book. A valve **404** is provided for inflating and deflating media bumper **400**.

Turning now to FIGS. **7-9**, it may be seen that two inflatable arches **200**, inflated using a valve **224**, are connected to a mat **210**. In an embodiment, mat **210** is inflatable. In another embodiment, mat **210** is a foldable sheet, for example a flexible polymeric sheet. Positioned upon a surface of mat **210** are a plurality of receptacles **206**, into which arch ends **204** may be inserted and fastened by a fastener **208**, which can include a snap, hook and loop fastener, or other releasable fastener. In other embodiments, arch ends **204** may be releasably fastened to mat **210** by other fastener methods, for example snaps, or hook and loop fasteners. While a single arch may be used, FIGS. **7** and **9** illustrate two arches, which may be joined at an intersection **212** therebetween, which enables arches **200** to be mutually supported in an upright position. Fasteners as described herein, for example snaps or hook and loop fasteners, may be provided at one or more potential intersections along a length of each arch **200**, enabling arches **200** to be erected to varying heights. For example, in FIG. **7**, arches **200** form a maximum height, and in FIG. **9**, a lower height forms a safe play area for a child.

As with other inflatable/deflatable items described herein, arches **200** can be deflated by opening valve **224** (not shown for all inflatable items) to release or admit air. When the valve is opened, arches **200** can be pressed to force out air, and then folded. Suction may also be used to further deflate inflatable/deflatable items, or to speed deflation. Pump **600** can be used for inflation, and in one embodiment, for deflation as well.

As may be seen in FIG. **7**, inflatable toys **220** can be provided, and can have loops or other fastener means, with which toys **220** can be attached to dangle from arch **200**, to amuse and educate a child at play. The toys may additionally be removed from the arch and used separately, for example the infant can play with them when the infant is upon mat **210**, being bathed, or traveling in a vehicle.

As may additionally be seen in FIGS. **7** and **9**, an inflatable infant pillow **222** can be provided to support an infant's head or neck, aid in learning to crawl, or support an infant during feeding, bathing, or when traveling in a vehicle, for example a car or plane. In the embodiment shown, pillow **222** is crescent shaped, although other shapes can be used, including rectangular, circular, or u-shaped, for example.

With reference to FIG. **8**, receptacle **206** can attached to, or can extended from, material of mat **210** or any portion of system **100**. In one embodiment, a snap, hook and loop, or other form of connector, can be disposed within or about the surface of arch ends **204** and receptacle **206**. In the embodiment of FIG. **8**A, receptacle **206**A is formed within the inflatable structure, for example system **100** or mat **210**, as an inward extension of the material of the structure, so that when the structure is inflated, receptacle **206**A is formed. In this embodiment, arch end **204** may be pushed into receptacle **206**A. If an interference fit is formed, there may be sufficient friction to adequately secure arch **200**. In addition or in the alternative, a fastener may be incorporated within receptacle **206**A, and a mating fastener portion may be formed upon arch end **204**, as described with respect to FIG. **8**.

Referring now to FIG. **10**, a travel bag **500** unzips or otherwise opens to expose inner compartments **502-510** sized and dimensioned to hold deflated elements of the disclosure. In the embodiment shown, compartment **502** holds media bumper **400**, compartment **504** holds mat **210** and arches **200**, compartments **506**A-B hold toys **220**, compartment **508** holds pillow **222**, and compartment **510** holds system **100**, all of which can be deflated and folded to reduce their dimensions.

A hook can be provided, positionable within an interior or an exterior of bag **500**, an operable to support travel bag in a vertical configuration, for example within a closet. Deflated elements which are still damp may be placed within their respective compartments, and may be caused to dry therein when bag **500** is suspended in relatively dry air. In an embodiment, one or more of compartments **502-508** have an outer mesh layer, configured to admit the passage of dry air into the compartment. In this manner, travel bag **500** forms a kit **700** of inflatable infant care elements of the disclosure, which is lightweight and easily transported.

Travel bag **500** can additionally be used to transport other useful items. For example, a battery operated or plug-in pump **600**, which is advantageously of light weight and transportable, can be provided, used to inflate inflatable elements of the disclosure. It is further advantageous if pump **600** can produce vacuum or suction, in order to speed deflation of inflatable items, and to produce the smallest possible packed size for such elements. Alternatively, cans of compressed air may also be used to inflate inflatable items of the disclosure. Any non-toxic and preferably non-flammable gas may be used to inflate inflatable items, including for example air or nitrogen. Items may be inflated at high or low pressure, but it is advantageous for low pressure to be used, for the safety of the infant, at least, in the event of rapid decompression of the item, for example if melted or pierced.

Travel bag **500** can additionally include common infant care items, such as wipes, towels, diapers, pins, medicaments, lotions, feeding items, food, clothing, nail clippers, brush, comb, soap, shampoo, thermometer, spoon, teether, bandaids, or any other item which may be useful when traveling with an infant.

It should be understood that travel bag **500** or any other container can be used to form a kit **700** of the disclosure, which includes any or all of the inflatable/deflatable items described herein, including media bumper **400**, mat **210**, arches **200**, toys **220**, pillow **222**, and system **100**. Such inflatable/deflatable items of the disclosure can be connected to pump **600**, which in an embodiment can form a suction to forcibly remove air from the inflatable/deflatable items, thereby causing the items to form the smallest possible dimensions in a relatively short time as compared with manually applying pressure to the items. A manually operated suction or inflation pump can also be used. Once deflated, the inflatable/deflatable items can be folded, rolled, bunched, or otherwise formed into a smaller dimension for insertion into kit **700**.

In all embodiments herein, it is important that the fasteners used cannot come loose and be accidentally swallowed by a child. Further, the various embodiments of the disclosure should not contain materials which may be harmful if ingested, and should not include sharp edges or points, unless unavoidable.

Inflatable elements of the disclosure, which include media bumper **400**, mat **210**, arches **200**, toys **220**, pillow **222**, system **100**, and any other object disclosed herein as inflatable, or which is known to be inflatable, or which can be made to be inflatable, can be fabricated using any of the following materials in this exemplary and non-limiting list: a polymer, for example polyvinylchloride (PVC), synthetic rubber such as neoprene or polychloroprene, natural rubber, vinyl, latex, or nylon. Materials are advantageously selected to be non-toxic and hypoallergenic to infants. The inflatable material can be coated with a soft textured fabric or coating, which is comfortable to the infant. This material can be water resistant, or quick drying, so that clean-up is facilitated. Examples include natural or synthetic foams, felts, fabrics, for example a polyester material with a hydrophilic surface finish, flannel, or velour. In an embodiment, an interior portion of system **100**, for example the interior in which the infant is seated or bathed, is provided with a removable fabric liner, which can be separately dried with respect to a remainder of system **100**. For example, the liner could be placed in a washing machine and or a dryer, or may be left in sunlight to become dry.

Inflatable elements of the disclosure may be fabricated from the foregoing materials using any known method, or methods hereinafter to be discovered, and which methods can include ultrasonic welding, molding, extrusion, heat welding, and chemical welding, for example.

All references cited herein are expressly incorporated by reference in their entirety. There are many different features to the present invention and it is contemplated that these features may be used together or separately. Unless mention was made above to the contrary, it should be noted that all of the accompanying drawings are not to scale. Thus, the invention should not be limited to any particular combination of features or to a particular application of the invention. Further, it should be understood that variations and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention might occur to those skilled in the art to which the invention pertains. Accordingly, all expedient modifications readily attainable by one versed in the art from the disclosure set forth herein that are within the scope and spirit of the present invention are to be included as further embodiments of the present invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An infant bathing tub, comprising:

an inflatable seat back portion proximate a first longitudinal end of the bathing tub, forming a back support;

a first inflatable bottom support portion forming a portion of a bottom side of the bathing tub, extending from the

seat back portion in a direction towards a second longitudinal end of the bathing tub opposite the first longitudinal end;

a second inflatable bottom support portion forming a portion of the bottom side of the bathing tub extending from an end of the first bottom support portion to the second longitudinal end, the second inflatable bottom support portion independently inflatable with respect to the first inflatable bottom support portion; and

inflatable side portions extending from the seat back portion along a first transverse side, then along the second longitudinal end, then along a second transverse side, the seat back, first and second bottom support portions, and inflatable side portions forming a water retaining tub shaped structure sized and dimensioned for bathing an infant when inflated;

the first and second bottom support portions bendable with respect to each other, and the inflatable side portions bendable when deflated, to change the tub shaped structure into a chair shaped structure.

2. The infant support of claim **1**, wherein when the side portion and the second bottom support portion are deflated, the bottom support portion and the side portion may be bent to form an angle with respect to the seat back portion, the infant support thereby positionable upon a supporting surface, the bottom support portion and side portions depending downward, away from the supporting surface.

3. The infant support of claim **1**, further including one or more fasteners for connecting the infant support to a supporting surface.

4. The infant support of claim **1**, the seat back portion and the side portion forming mutually separate air chambers, each air chamber provided with a gas inflation valve.

5. The infant support of claim **4**, the first and second bottom support portions each forming an air chamber separate from the seat back portion and the side portion, and each having a gas inflation valve.

6. The infant support of claim **1**, the seat back portion, bottom support portion, and side portion collectively forming an interior, the interior provided with a soft textured fabric surface.

7. The infant support of claim **1**, further including one or more inflatable arches releasably connectable to the infant support.

8. The infant support of claim **7**, further including one or more inflatable toys releasably connectable to the one or more inflatable arches.

9. The infant support of claim **1**, further including an infant safety restraint connected to the seat back portion and operable to limit movement of an infant within the child support.

10. The infant support of claim **1**, further including a crotch restraint proximate the bottom support portion.

11. The infant support of claim **1**, further including one or more valves associated with the inflatable portions through which air can be admitted under pressure, or withdrawn under suction.

12. The infant support of claim **1**, further including at least one storage pocket connected to at least one of the seat back, support, and side portions.

13. An infant bathing tub, comprising:

an inflatable seat back portion proximate a first longitudinal end of the infant support device and forming a back support;

a bottom support portion extending from the seat back portion in a direction of a second longitudinal end of the infant support device opposite the first longitudinal end, the bottom support portion forming a bottom side of the bathing tub, the bottom support portion bendable along an axis transverse with respect to an axis extending between the first and second longitudinal ends;

an inflatable side portion extending from the seat back portion along a first transverse side, then along the second longitudinal end, then along a second transverse side,

to be formable into a water retaining tub shaped structure, together with the bottom and the seat back when the seat back and side portions are inflated, the tub shaped structure sized and dimensioned for bathing an infant, and

to be bendable when deflated to bend downwards with respect to the seat back, at the transverse axis of the bottom support, while the seat back is inflated, to be thereby formable into a chair when the seat back portion is inflated and the side portion is deflated.

14. The bathing tub of claim **13**, further including one or more inflatable supporting arches.

15. The bathing tub of claim **13**, further including at least one of a mat and an inflatable mat.

16. The bathing tub of claim **13**, further including a portable pump operative to produce pressure to inflate inflatable objects.

17. The bathing tub of claim **13**, further including a bag for containing bathing tub when deflated.

18. The bathing tub of claim **13**, further including a storage bag, and at least one of an elongate inflatable safety bumper, a storage hook, and inflatable toys.

19. A method of supporting an infant, comprising:

inflating a seat back portion of an infant support device proximate a first longitudinal end of the infant support device thereby forming a back support and at least a portion of a bottom side of the infant support device;

inflating an expansion portion of a side portion of the infant support device, the expansion portion extending from an area proximate the seat back portion along a first transverse side, then along the second longitudinal end, then along a second transverse side, the seat back portion, bottom support portion, and expansion portion thereby forming a water retaining tub shaped structure sized and dimensioned for bathing an infant;

at least partially deflating the expansion portion of the side portion and the bottom support portions; and

bending the expanding side portion and the bottom support portion to cause the expanding side portion and the bottom support portion to depend downwards relative to the seat back portion, thereby converting the tub shaped structure to a chair shaped structure.

20. The method of claim **19**, further including securing the infant support device to a supporting surface using one or more straps.

21. The method of claim **19**, further including draining the tub when the tub is retaining water by operating a valve.

* * * * *